Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

Benefits to the Student
1. Free education to upgrade skills and/or find new employment
2. Allows adult learners to return to school for high priority occupations
3. Students graduate without student loan debt
4. Since 1975, the TAA program has served more than 2 million U.S. workers

Definition
The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program is a federal entitlement program that assists U.S. workers who have lost or may lose their jobs as a result of foreign trade.

Eligibility
A group of workers may be eligible for TAA if their jobs are lost or threatened due to trade-related circumstances as determined by the Department of Labor investigation. These circumstances may include:
- Increased imports
- Shift in operations to certain countries
- Supply or downstream production to certain companies with TAA-certified workers.

Benefits to Penn State
1. Reliable source of funding promotes student retention
2. Students graduate prepared for high priority occupations, which improves employment rates of graduates
3. Consistent revenue for the campus
4. Between July 2014 and April 2015, the state of Pennsylvania committed over $640,000 to World Campus students

The Process of Using TAA Funding to Pay for Penn State Education

1. Is individual's previous or current company certified for TAA?
   - No
   - Yes

   Actions:
   1. PSU staff checks on TAA website for company's certification status: http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/taa_search_form.cfm
   2. If the company is not listed as certified or pending, but the individual feels a certification process is warranted, please refer to this website for instructions regarding initiating a certification process: http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/petitions.cfm

2. Is the individual eligible for TAA?
   - Yes
   - No

   Actions:
   1. The individual needs to contact his/her local career center to determine if s/he is eligible for TAA.

3. Is the program of individual's choice approved for TAA?
   - Yes
   - No

   Actions:
   1. If the chosen program is not already approved, PSU staff can submit the program for approval through the CWDS website: https://www.cwds.pa.gov/

4. Is the individual accepted to Penn State?
   - Yes: *app. fee waiver
   - No

   Actions:
   1. The individual can apply to the selected Penn State program at any time prior to this point.
   2. However, his or her application fee can be waived only at this point.
   3. While only undergraduate application fee can be waived, graduate application fee can be reimbursed once all of the approvals are granted

5. Is the TAA training plan (for chosen program) approved for this individual?
   - Yes
   - No

   Actions:
   1. The individual takes his/her PSU acceptance letter to the career center worker to initiate the training application in CWDS.
   2. The career center worker will post the electronic training application in CWDS.
   3. PSU staff gets an academic plan from an academic adviser and compiles a course list.
   4. PSU staff adds the following information to the electronic training app. in the CWDS:
      - length of the selected academic program
      - program description and cost

6. Secure OSP Contract

   Actions:
   1. Career center worker finalizes the electronic training app. in CWDS and submits it for approval by the State.
   2. Everyone waits for training plan approval, which can come as late as a week before courses start.
   3. The individual needs to register for courses while awaiting approval, but cancel courses prior to the 1st day of the semester if training plan is not approved and no other funding options are available.

PSU Staff Fulfills Ongoing Administrative Responsibilities

   Actions:
   1. Order books each semester
   2. Report attendance weekly
   3. Monitor academic progress every 6 months

Actions:
- STOP
- Explore other funding options
- Order books each semester
- Report attendance weekly
- Monitor academic progress every 6 months